



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.08

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 4/14/2004

**GAIN Report Number:** SA4008

## Saudi Arabia

### Grain and Feed

## KSA Accepts GIPSA's Grain Export Statements and Bans Biotech Seed Imports

**2004**

**Approved by:**

Quintin Gray  
Agricultural Trade Office, U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:** Hussein Mousa

---

**Report Highlights:**

The Saudi Ministry of Agriculture accepts GISPA biotech statements as fulfillment of its bulk grains biotech-labeling requirement. Also, the Ministry has decided to ban all kinds of biotech seeds.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Riyadh [SA2]  
[SA]

The Saudi Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has recently implemented its Ministerial decree number 88631 issued on February 5, 2003 which requires a shipment-by-shipment biotech labeling of all imported animal feed containing biotech ingredients. Besides, the MOA earlier this year banned imports of all kind of biotech seeds, transplants or their derivatives. Per the ministry's Seed Registration and Licenses Department, all seed, transplants or their derivatives shipped to Saudi Arabia now must be accompanied by official certificates indicating that the products are free from all kinds of biotech modifications.

For U.S. grains imported to the Kingdom, MOA has accepted a USDA agency Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) one-time biotech grain certification statements submitted to the Ministry by ATO\Riyadh in May 2003. The statements certify that the exported transgenic grains are the same as those consumed in the US. The MOA acceptance of the GIPSA statements eliminates the need for a shipment-by-shipment positive biotech certification for U.S. corn and soybean meal shipped to Saudi Arabia. Until other countries negotiate a similar arrangement with the Saudi officials, U.S. grain exporters are the only ones who are not required to obtain official biotech certificates for their grains exported to the Kingdom.

Below are GIPSA's one-time grains certification statements that are accepted by the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture in lieu of a shipment-by-shipment biotech certification requirement.

<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>Statements:</b> We hereby certify that the soybeans may come from genetically modified soybeans of the type Monsanto Roundup Ready Soybeans that have been approved for import into the EEC under directive 96/281/ EC. The soybeans may come from genetically modified soybeans of the type Monsanto Roundup Ready Soybeans. Transgenic soybeans commercially produced in the United States have completed the necessary review under the U.S. regulatory process for determining the safety of new agricultural biotechnology products. This well coordinated regulatory process sets U.S. standards for human, animal, and plant health, and environmental safety. The transgenic soybeans used for domestic purposes are the same as those used for export.
<b>Corn</b>	<b>Statements:</b> Transgenic corn commercially produced in the United States has completed the necessary review under the U.S. regulatory process for determining the safety of new agricultural biotechnology products. This well coordinated regulatory process sets U.S. standards for human, animal, and plant health, and environmental safety. The transgenic corn used for domestic purposes is the same as corn used for export.
<b>Testing Parameters</b>	<b>Statements:</b> The sample was tested using a method equal to or exceeding the performance of the USDA's GIPSA testing recommendations, as set out in Directive 9181.1.

End of Report